

This bird is usually seen along the coasts and has not been recorded so far inland in western India though in the east it is known from Monghyr (Bihar) on the Ganges and eastern Assam.

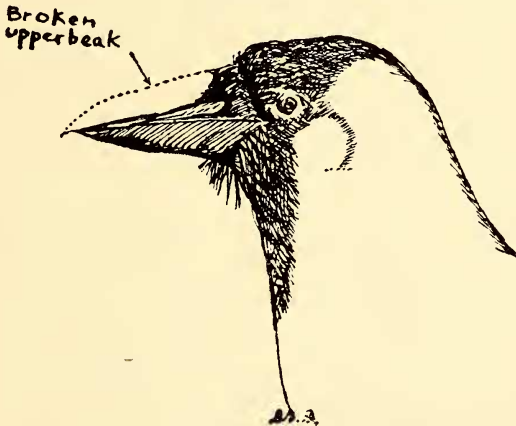
BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
HORNBILL HOUSE,  
BOMBAY.  
March 23, 1968.

B. R. GRUBH  
J. D. PANDAY  
P. B. SHEKAR

## 10. CROWS AND COMPANIONSHIP

(With a text-figure)

On the evening of 29 December 1965, I and my friend Rojer Finzel of the American Peace Corps stationed at Rajpipla were sitting on the terrace of my house when we saw an unusual sight, a crow (*Corvus splendens*) with a broken upper beak as in the text-figure.



We were wondering as to how it would feed itself. After watching it for a while I decided to take its photograph, and went into the house but on returning with the camera I was disappointed to notice that the crow had flown off.

On the morning of 31 December at about 7.30 a.m. I saw the bird again. It was trying to feed itself by bending its head to one side and scooping the food with the lower beak. It failed several times in its efforts to secure the food but in the end managed to place it on the lower beak and tilting its head upwards as birds do to drink water, swallowed the food with slow jerky movements.

When it was trying again to pick up another bit a couple of crows nearby came and started feeding it. This led me to the hasty conclusion

that the bird was young but more careful observation confirmed that it was an adult. This indicates a sympathy towards a crippled member of the flock. However, a more plausible explanation could be that this bird lost its upper beak as a nestling and the pair that had fed it as a nestling continued to feed it considering its helplessness.

I shall be very much interested in any similar incident recorded.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY,  
M.R. ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE,  
RAJPIPLA.

DHRUV DIXIT

July 23, 1967.

### 11. THE WAXWING, *BOMBYCILLA GARRULUS* (LINNAEUS), IN NEPAL

The Waxwing, *Bombycilla garrulus* (Linnaeus), has been reported in southern Asia from Quetta and Bannu in extreme western Pakistan (Ripley 1961 : 319). Recently I undertook a study trip with members of the Natural History Society of Woodstock School, Mussoorie, U.P. to the Gosainkund Lekh region north of Kathmandu. On the morning of 16 December 1967, Mr. Robert Waltner, Staff Advisor to the Society, reported seeing a solitary 'waxwing-like' bird near our camp at Thare Pate Puchari. Later the same day I found a flock of four waxwings perched in the top of a bare tree at c. 3660 m. (12,000 feet) elevation ; two were collected.

These birds were in association with Whitewinged Grosbeaks, *Mycerobas carnipes* (Hodgson), and Blackthroated Thrushes, *Turdus ruficollis* Pallas, in a mixed forest of *Juniperus*, *Rhododendron*, *Magnolia* and *Abies*. The only note heard was the familiar high 'zeeee zeeee' given when the birds were about to fly. The ventriculi of the two birds contained whole juniper berries (probably of *Juniperus recurva*, see Stainton, 1964 : Appendix E). Measurements of the specimens were : RLF 2131 : ♀, wing 116 mm.; RLF 2132 : ♀, wing 114 mm.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr. R. L. Fleming, Sr., helped greatly in making arrangements for our trip. I also wish to express my thanks to the officials of the Foreign Office and Forest Department of His Majesty's Government for permission to trek and collect in Nepal.

OFFICE OF ECOLOGY,  
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560.

ROBERT L. FLEMING JR.

December 23, 1967.